

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 3806

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (DESAI, MORARJI)
SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON

REFS: (A) STATE 59573 (B) 59725

1. I MET WITH V. SHANKAR THIS MORNING TO DISCUSS THE ALTERNATIVE DATES AND PROPOSED PROGRAM FOR PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON. HE EXPRESSED PM'S APPRECIATION FOR WHITE HOUSE EFFORT TO ACCOMMODATE HIM BY OFFERING THE TWO OPTIONS, BUT SHANKAR SAID THAT THE PM'S CHOICE PROBABLY COULD NOT BE MADE BEFORE THIS COMING MONDAY. THEY WANT TO FIT WASHINGTON VISIT NOT ONLY TO AN SSOD APEARANCE BUT ALSO TO A STOP IN GREAT BRITAIN AND POSSIBLE SHORT VISITS TO WEST GERMANY AND TOKYO AS WELL.

2. SHANKAR'S OWN PREFERENCE IS STRONGLY FOR THE JUNE 13-14 DATES TO PERMIT MORE TIME FOR MEETINGS OF THE PM AND PRESIDENT AND TO HAVE THE U.S. CONGRESS IN TOWN.

3. HE INDICATED THAT THEY HAVE BEEN CONSIDERING BUILDING A LARGER TRIP FOR THE PM, TO TAKE AS MUCH AS TWO WEEKS, AROUND THE WASHINGTON VISIT. IF THE PM AGREES AND THE SCHEDULES OF THE OTHER GOVERNMENTS PERMIT, THIS WOULD BE A ROUND-THE-WORLD TRIP, IN WHICH THE PM WOULD BE RESPONDING
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PAGE 02 NEW DE 03806 100807Z

TO INVITATIONS FROM BONN AND TOKYO, AS WELL AS FROM THE U.K. AND OURSELVES.

4. FOR THE U.S. POSITION, SHANKAR WILL RECOMMEND TO THE PM TWO DAYS IN WASHINGTON, THREE DAYS IN NEW YORK, AND ONE DAY IN CALIFORNIA. (QUERY: BECAUSE A SUNDAY WOULD

FALL WITHIN THAT PERIOD IF IT BEGINS THE NIGHT OF JUNE 12,
I HOPE THAT WE CAN CONSIDER THE USG COVERING AN ADDED
NIGHT OR TWO BEYOND THE NORMAL SIX CITED IN REFTEL B.
ALTERNATIVELY, IF WE CAN ONLY PROVIDE OFFICIAL HOSPITALITY
FOR THE NIGHTS OF JUNE 12 THROUGH 17, COULD A PRESIDENTIAL
AIRCRAFT STILL BE AVAILABLE TO TAKE THE PM AND HIS PARTY
TO THE WEST COAST? IF HE GOES TO CALIFORNIA, EN ROUTE
TO TOKYO FROM NEW YORK, MONDAY, JUNE 19, WOULD CLEARLY
BE A MUCH BETTER DAY FOR PUBLIC APPEARANCES THERE THAN
THE PRECEDING SATURDAY OR SUNDAY.) GOHEEN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** ONLY

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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